



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
— Making a positive difference through education and service —

February 2, 2005

Dear School Counselor,

The National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) is an intense, month-long camp that honors and challenges two promising high school science students from each US state the summer after they graduate from high school. Delegates are graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, leadership in school and community activities, and a genuine interest in the sciences. As the state selection coordinator, I am writing to remind you that eligible students must complete the application and submit it by first-class mail so that it is received in my office **no later than February 18, 2005**. The application form and instructions may be found at the NYSC website (<http://141.153.63.184/NYSC2005.asp>).

Two delegates and two alternates will be selected to represent Missouri at this prestigious science camp. The 2005 NYSC will be held at Camp Pocahontas in the [Monongahela National Forest](#), near the [National Radio Astronomy Observatory](#) in the eastern mountains of West Virginia. In this rustic setting, students from around the country are challenged academically in exciting lectures and hands-on studies, and have many opportunities to push themselves physically in an extensive outdoor program, gain a new and deep appreciation for the great outdoors, and establish friendships that last a lifetime.

During the four-week camp, scientists from across the nation, who work on some of today's most provocative topics in science, present lectures and hands-on science seminars and linger to interact informally with student delegates. Delegates are challenged to explore new areas in the biological and physical sciences, art, and music with resident staff members. They also may present seminars covering their own areas of interest and research. The delegates visit Washington D.C. to take advantage of some of the nation's premier scientific, governmental, and cultural facilities.

The NYSC is made possible through the planning and fundraising of the [National Youth Science Foundation](#), a nonprofit organization with a mission to honor, sustain, and encourage youth interest and excellence in science. The camp is offered at no cost to participants, so that selected delegates may attend regardless of their financial status. Educational and recreational programming, as well as meals, lodging, and airfare, are also provided free of charge to the delegates. For additional information, visit www.nysc.org.

Please take the time to review the application information, share it with your science teachers and high-achieving students, and encourage them to complete the application process. Eligible applicants include those students who:

- are candidates for high school graduation in the spring of 2005;
- intend to pursue a profession oriented toward science, mathematics, engineering, or medicine;
- demonstrate superior academic proficiency, including recognition in mathematics and/or the sciences;
- demonstrate an application of leadership abilities and social maturity through involvement in both school and community activities;
- demonstrate skills and achievements outside the realm of science and outside the realm of academic pursuits; and
- demonstrate a curiosity and an eagerness to explore many and varied topics.

Again, students must complete the application and submit it by United States Postal Service first-class mail, so that it is received in my office (P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480) no later than February 18, 2005.

If you need additional information or assistance, please contact me by phone at (573) 751-4445, or by email at Linda.Lacy@dese.mo.gov.

Linda Lacy
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